

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEVADA

LAUSTEVEION JOHNSON,)	3:14-cv-00213-RCJ-WGC
)	
Plaintiff,)	<u>MINUTES OF THE COURT</u>
)	
vs.)	April 1, 2015
)	
JAMES GREG COX, et al.,)	
)	
Defendants.)	
)	

PRESENT: THE HONORABLE WILLIAM G. COBB, U.S. MAGISTRATE JUDGE

DEPUTY CLERK: KATIE LYNN OGDEN REPORTER: NONE APPEARING

COUNSEL FOR PLAINTIFF(S): NONE APPEARING

COUNSEL FOR DEFENDANT(S): NONE APPEARING

MINUTE ORDER IN CHAMBERS:

Before the court are Plaintiff's "Motion to Compell (sic) Defendants to Submit Documents in Camera" (Doc. # 31) and Plaintiff's "Motion for an Order Compelling Discovery " (Doc. # 32). Defendants have responded to both motions in a single filing (Doc. # 37)¹ and Plaintiff has replied (Doc. # 39).

Plaintiff failed to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the court that he adequately conferred with opposing counsel and also failed to provide accurate and satisfactory certification that he was unable to resolve the matter without court action pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 37 and LR 26-7(b). *Shuffle Master, Inc. v. Progressive Games, Inc.*, 170 FRD 166, 170 (D.C. Nev. 1996) (certification must "accurately and specifically convey to the court who, where, how and when the respective parties attempted to personally resolve the discovery dispute.") While the court does not expect an inmate to *meet* with opposing counsel, the court expects—and insists—that the inmate litigant communicate with counsel in an earnest attempt to resolve the discovery dispute.²

However, even if Plaintiff's motions were not subject to the "meet & confer" infirmity, Plaintiff's motions should be denied on substantive grounds, as the court will now address.

¹ Defendants' "collective opposition" includes, alternatively, a motion for extension of time to respond to Plaintiff's motions to compel (Doc. # 37 at 1-4, 6) and also a motion to strike Plaintiff's two motions to compel (*id.*, at 5-7).

² The court takes note Magistrate Judge Valerie P. Cooke denied Plaintiff's motion to compel in *Johnson v. N. Young, et al.*, 3:14-cv-00178-RCJ-VPC (Doc. # 26), also by reason of Plaintiff's failure to satisfy the "meet and confer" requirements of Fed. R. Civ P. 37 and LR 26-7(b).

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Doc. # 31:

Although Plaintiff in this motion failed to include the full text of the discovery requests and responses as required by LR 26-7(a), as the court interprets his discovery issues, they are without merit in any event.

As to item 1, i.e., a request that he be provided selected medical records of which Plaintiff seeks production, the court has long deferred to Nevada Department of Corrections (NDOC) policy of requiring an inmate to “kite” to see his medical records and not be allowed to possess them in his cell.

As to item 2, other inmate claims of alleged sexual molestation, etc., as against Dr. Koehn are irrelevant to whether the Plaintiff’s allegations against Dr. Koehn did or did not occur. Even if other similar complaints were made, such would require the court to, in essence, conduct “mini trials” as to each inmate’s assertions, claims which would likely be inadmissible at trial in any event (as they are not reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of admissible evidence). Additionally, requiring Dr. Koehn to undertake a review of “any and all kites, grievances, investigation reports and cases filed against ESP Dr. Michael Koehn” to extract any claims or assertions which might have averred molestation would likely be a Herculean undertaking and burdensome on Defendant Koehn, who presumably has seen hundreds if not thousands of inmates over the years and in turn has been the subject of inmate complaints, both formal and informal..

Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26 governs the scope of discovery in civil actions, and provides in pertinent part:

Parties may obtain discovery regarding any nonprivileged matter that is relevant to any party's claim or defense-including the existence, description, nature, custody, condition, and location of any documents or other tangible things and the identity and location of persons who know of any discoverable matter. For good cause, the court may order discovery of any matter relevant to the subject matter involved in the action. Relevant information need not be admissible at the trial if the discovery appears reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of admissible evidence.

Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(b)(1).

Accordingly, the first limitation on permissible discovery is that it be relevant. See, e.g., *Dowell v. W.T. Griffin*, 275 F.R.D. 613, 617 (S.D. Cal. Aug. 17, 2011) (stating that the court must first address whether the requested documents are relevant before discussing other discovery contentions). Relevance “has been construed broadly to encompass any matter that bears on, or that reasonably could lead to other matter that could bear on, any issue that is or may be in the case.” *Oppenheimer Fund, Inc. v. Sanders*, 437 U.S. 340, 351 1978 (citing *Hickman v. Taylor*, 329 U.S. 495, 501 (1947)). As discussed above, any complaints, kites, grievances, claims, etc., other inmates may have made against Dr. Koehn are irrelevant as to whether Dr. Koehn allegedly sexually abused Plaintiff.

By: /s/
Deputy Clerk